

19 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Status Report on Surfacing of RX

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. Recent discussions with Harold Brown and Dr. Fubini have provided the following information on the status of surfacing the RX program:
 - a. When the President saw Dr. Killian's letter, he indicated he would not sign off on any procedure until Dr. Killian had indicated his concurrence. Therefore, attempts were made to get Dr. Killian to come to Washington to look at the McCone-McNamara agreed procedure. Since Dr. Killian was unavailable, Dr. Baker came in his place and discussed this with various DoD officials and with Mr. Bundy.
3. Drs. Brown and Fubini are not happy with the approach in the McCone-McNamara agreement which involves briefing large numbers of Congressmen on a Top Secret but false basis. They have proposed a new white version, a copy of which is enclosed. I believe that this white version was discussed with Dr. Baker. Secretary McNamara has refused to reconsider the question since he believes he has arrived at an agreed *modus vivendi*.
4. On Friday, 18 January, the McCone-McNamara agreement was shown to Dr. Killian and Dr. Land, who concurred in the procedure. Presumably, Baker expressed his reservations and those of the DoC but this did not change Dr. Killian's and Dr. Land's views. I further understand that Dr. Baker and Mr. Bundy have written to Dr. Killian stating their worries about the proposal and have asked Dr. Killian to reconsider the matter. As of the present moment it is not known whether Drs. Killian and Land will change their views and re-open the question.

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5. I personally consider that the new DoD white version is little better than the original. I believe their paper drastically overstates and is misleading relative to the present status of security on the project. The substitution of a fighter for a general purpose aircraft will not, in my opinion, make the story any more plausible, and it will be no time at all before the aircraft will be labelled as a U-2 follow-on. Then the Government is back in the very undesirable position of being officially involved in such a development, and all of the writers will be given a free license to speculate and leak out as much information as they possibly can on the development. While I also have some reservations about the Top Secret briefing of large numbers of Congressmen on a false EX story, I do not believe that the new DoD white version is preferable. A completely black program, on which only cleared members of Congress are briefed on the facts, would, in my opinion, be the best. I gather that one of the political reasons why some people wish a white program involves a desire to get Gen. Shriever and his people into the development picture, which would be impossible in a black situation.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Attachment

cc: DDCI
Exec Dir

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